

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF WATERTOWN  
June 17, 2013  
7:00 p.m.**

**Mayor Jeffrey E. Graham Presiding**

**Present:** Council Member Roxanne M. Burns  
Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr.  
Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso  
Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith  
Mayor Graham

**Also Present:** Sharon Addison, City Manager  
Robert J. Slye, City Attorney

**City staff present:** Elliott Nelson, Jim Mills, Ken Mix, Kurt Hauk, Brian Phelps, Mike Sligar, Justin Wood, Beth Morris, Barb Wheeler, Chief Herman, Pete Keenan

The City Manager presented the following reports to Council:

- Resolution No. 1 -Authorizing Acceptance of New York Safety and Health Hazard Abatement Board, Occupational Safety and Health Training and Education Program Grant
- Resolution No. 2 -Approving Agreement for Public Benefit Services Between the City of Watertown and the Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County, Inc.
- Resolution No. 3 - Approving Agreement for Public Benefit Services Between the City of Watertown and the Thousand Islands International Tourism Council
- Resolution No. 4 - Accepting Bid for Ready-Mix Concrete, Watertown Concrete, Inc.
- Resolution No. 5 - Approving Production Agreement Between the City of Watertown and Steve Weed Productions
- Resolution No. 6 - Accepting Bid for Various Lengths of Fire Hose; Municipal Emergency Services
- Resolution No. 7 - Approving Contract Agreement for Hydroelectric Operations and Maintenance Services, Upstate Testing and Controls Services
- Resolution No. 8 - Approving Public Benefit Services Agreement Between the City of Watertown and the Disabled Persons Action Organization
- Resolution No. 9 - Approving Public Benefits Services Agreement Between the City of Watertown and the Jefferson County Historical Society
- Resolution No. 10 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2013-14 Tourism Fund Budget
- Tabled - Resolution Accepting Bid for Waste Water Treatment Plant Disinfection Improvements Project, HVAC and Plumbing, Hyde Stone
- Tabled - Ordinance Amending the Code of the City of Watertown, §310-1, Definition of Family and §310-34, Accessory Uses in Residence Districts
- FY 2013-14 Tourism Fund
- Financial Reports

**Complete Reports on file in the office of the City Clerk**

Meeting opened with a moment of silence.

Pledge of Allegiance was given.

The reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of June 3, 2013, adjourned meeting of June 10, 2013 and work session of June 10, 2013 were dispensed and accepted as written by motion of Council Member Roxanne M. Burns, seconded by Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

A letter was received from Carol Kopf in regards to the fluoride presentation by Dr. J. Kumar and her concerns about fluoridated water.

A letter was received from Grace MacDowell in regards to the dangers of water fluoridation.

A letter was received from Donald Hassig in regards to the practice of water fluoridation and the government's role in providing warnings of avoidable chemical exposure health hazards.

A letter was received from Andrew Follin regarding his opposition to adding sodium fluoride to public water.

A letter was received from Bonnie Kellogg in support of keeping fluoride in the City's water.

A letter was received from Christina Wasniski requesting Council to name Watertown's public skate park in memory of her late son, Daniel who past away last month.

**Above communications were placed on file in the office of the City Clerk.**

A Notice of Claim was received from Madelyn Scott for damages sustained from an injury occurring on Thompson Boulevard on May 15, 2013.

A Notice of Claim was received from Timothy Greenfield for injuries sustained after a motor vehicle accident on April 21, 2013, between his vehicle and a City Police vehicle.

**Above claims have been referred to the Board of Audit.**

## **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

**Judith George**, 1244 Gotham Street addressed the chair reading from a prepared statement (on file in the City Clerk's Office). She spoke of the increased traffic on Gotham Street hill due to the construction of new houses and the Hospice Facility. She stated that the speed at which the vehicles are traveling is above the posted speed limit and makes for a very dangerous situation.

Mayor Graham asked the City Manager to have the Police Chief review this and report back to Council.

**Robert Finn**, 202 Chestnut Street addressed the chair stating that his friend's mother wrote to Council requesting that the City's skate park be named after the late Daniel A. Louise who visited the park on a

daily basis. He said that this dedication would show that the City cares about the people in the City. He submitted a petition that will be placed on file in the City Clerk's Office.

Mayor Graham asked that this be referred to the Parks and Recreation Superintendent.

**Troy Walts**, 380 Brainard Street thanked Council, in particular Council Member Smith and Council Member Macaluso, for asking difficult questions of Dr. Kumar. He said that he looked at a lot of the research that Dr. Kumar presented and he has read books that discredit this research. He indicated that he is regrouping and will reorganize some of his research in order for this issue to stay active.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### **Resolution No. 1 – Authorizing Acceptance of New York Safety and Health Hazard Abatement Board, Occupational Safety and Health Training and Education Program Grant**

#### **Introduced by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso**

WHEREAS the New York Safety and Health Hazard Abatement Board has accepted applications for funding to support occupational safety and health training for public employees, and

WHEREAS each year the City of Watertown provides occupational training opportunities for its employees, and

WHEREAS the Superintendent of Public Works Eugene P. Hayes prepared an application for funding to provide City employees with this training opportunity, and

WHEREAS the City has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$5,895.00 to provide training to its employees,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby authorizes the acceptance of the above-referenced grant in the amount of \$5,895.00 from the State of New York Safety and Health Hazard Abatement Board, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mayor Jeffrey E. Graham is hereby authorized and directed to execute the grant agreement on behalf of the City of Watertown, a copy of which is attached and made a part of this resolution.

**Seconded by Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith and carried with all voting yea.**

### **Resolution No. 2 – Approving Agreement for Public Benefit Services Between the City of Watertown and the Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County, Inc.**

#### **Introduced by Council Member Roxanne M. Burns**

WHEREAS the Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County (CAPC) was incorporated and designated in 1967 as the official anti-poverty agency for Jefferson County, and

WHEREAS since that time, CAPC has received funds from local governments as the local share required to leverage State and Federal program service dollars, and

WHEREAS the services provided by the CAPC promotes a public purpose, and

WHEREAS the services promote the education, charity, health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Watertown,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Agreement for Public Benefit Services between the City of Watertown and the Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County, Inc., a copy of which is attached and made a part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Manager Sharon Addison is hereby authorized and directed to execute this Agreement on behalf of the City of Watertown.

**Seconded by Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr. and carried with all voting yea.**

**Resolution No. 3 – Approving Agreement for Public Benefit Services Between the City of Watertown and the Thousand Islands International Tourism Council**

**Introduced by Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith**

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown wishes to enter into an Agreement for the provision of destination marketing services with the Thousand Islands International Tourism Council, and

WHEREAS the Thousand Islands International Tourism Council presented their 2013-14 Destination Marketing Proposal to the City Council of the City of Watertown on June 10, 2013;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that it approves the Agreement for Public Benefit Services with the Thousand Islands International Tourism Council, a copy of which is attached and made a part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Manager Sharon Addison is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City of Watertown.

**Seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso and carried with all voting yea.**

**Resolution No. 4 – Accepting Bid for Ready-Mix Concrete, Watertown Concrete, Inc.**

**Introduced by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso**

WHEREAS the City Purchasing Department has advertised and received sealed bids for the purchase of Ready-Mix Concrete for use by various City Departments during Fiscal Year 2013-2014, and

WHEREAS invitations to bid were issued to three (3) prospective bidders with two (2) bids received and publicly opened and read in the City Purchasing Department on Tuesday, June 11, 2013 at 11:00 a.m., and

WHEREAS City Purchasing Manager Amy Pastuf reviewed the bids received, and it is her recommendation that the City Council accept the bid submitted by Watertown Concrete, Inc., Watertown, New York, as detailed below, all with a 2 yard minimum delivery:

4000 lb. Coarse Mix	\$ 92.00/cubic yard
4000 lb. Fine Mix	\$ 92.00/cubic yard
5000 lb. Fine Mix	\$ 95.00/cubic yard
4000 lb. Course Mix / Heated Concrete	\$102.00/cubic yard
4000 lb. Fine Mix / Heated Concrete	\$102.00/cubic yard
5000 lb. Fine Mix / Heated Concrete	\$105.00/cubic yard

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York accepts the bid submitted by Watertown Concrete, Inc., Watertown, New York, as detailed above, for the purchase of Ready-Mix Concrete for use by various City Departments.

**Seconded by Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr. and carried with all voting yea.**

**Resolution No. 5 – Approving Production Agreement Between the City of Watertown and Steve Weed Productions**

**Introduced by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso**

WHEREAS The City Council of the City of Watertown meets every month for Regular Meetings and Work Sessions, and

WHEREAS meetings of the City Council are open to the public and Council wishes to have them recorded and available for public access television and the internet, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown has contracted with Steve Weed Productions to record City Council meetings since 2006, and

WHEREAS Steve Weed Productions is willing to continue to provide their services to the City under the term of the attached Agreement, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown wishes to continue to retain the services of Steve Weed Productions under the terms of the attached Agreement;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Production Agreement between the City of Watertown and Steve Weed Productions, a copy of which is attached and made part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Manager Sharon Addison is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City.

**Seconded by Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr.**

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mayor Graham stated that he is not against the work that is done videotaping, but he has received feedback that the video is not easy to get to and you need to view it through Mr. Weed's website.

Elliot Nelson, Assistant to the City Manager explained that this was changed last year and individuals can go through the City's website to view the video.

Mayor Graham told Ms. Addison that concerns have come from Newzjunky.

Peter Keenan, IT Manager further explained that the City's website contains links/shortcuts to Mr. Weed's website and the actual content is not streamed by the City. He noted that this is something that he could look into if Council is interested.

Mayor Graham commented that he would like to see it directly available from the City's website.

Council Member Butler remarked that when the video is aired on television, he has been told that the audio is bad. Referring to the quality of the microphones and Council's efforts to speak more clearly into the microphone, he wondered what else could be done.

Council Member Burns mentioned that she has received those same comments regarding the audio.

Council Member Macaluso reminded Council that improvements to the sound system within Council Chambers were discussed but could not be put in the budget for this year.

**At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing resolution and carried with all voting yea.**

**Resolution No. 6 – Accepting Bid for Various Lengths of Fire Hose; Municipal Emergency Services**

**Introduced by Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith**

WHEREAS the City Purchasing Department has advertised and received sealed bids for the purchase of various lengths of fire hose for use by the City Fire Department, and

WHEREAS funding for said purchase of various lengths of fire hose was awarded through the FEMA Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant Program, and

WHEREAS invitations to bid were issued to eight (8) prospective bidders with eight (8) bids received and publicly opened and read in the City Purchasing Department on Monday, June 10, 2013 at 11:00 a.m., and

WHEREAS City Purchasing Manager Amy Pastuf and Fire Chief Dale Herman reviewed the bids received, and it is their recommendation that the City Council accept the bid submitted by Municipal Emergency Services as the lowest responsive bidder in the amount of \$34,026.00;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown accepts the bid submitted by Municipal Emergency Services for the purchase of various lengths of fire hose for use by the City Fire Department.

**Seconded by Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr. and carried with all voting yea**

**Resolution No. 7 – Approving Contract Agreement for Hydroelectric Operations and Maintenance Services, Upstate Testing and Controls Services**

**Introduced by Council Member Roxanne M. Burns**

WHEREAS the CITY owns a Watertown Hydroelectric Plant and associated dams and civil works (hereinafter referred to as the “PLANT”), on the Black River in the City of Watertown, State of New York with Units No. 1, 2, & 3 therein being so arranged that the electricity generated therein is delivered to the electric sub-transmission system of NATIONAL GRID with which it is physically connected, and

WHEREAS the CITY is authorized to operate the PLANT by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commissions’ “Order Issuing License” for Watertown Hydroelectric Project No. 2442-001, issued June 16, 1995 and/or the FERC “Order Amending License and Revising Annual Charges” for the Watertown Hydroelectric Project No. 2442-020, issued January 6, 1997, hereinafter referred to as the “LICENSE” and “AMENDED LICENSE”, respectively, for the “PROJECT” and “AMENDED PROJECT,” respectively, and

WHEREAS on June 7, 1999 the CITY initially entered into a three (3) year agreement for Hydroelectric Operations and Maintenance Services with Mercer Management, Inc. later organizing under the name Mercer Construction Co., LLC, and currently dba as Upstate Testing & Control Services (UTC), constituting some fourteen (14) consecutive years of consistent operations and maintenance of the PLANT up to and including the present date, and

WHEREAS prior to awarding the initial Agreement with Mercer Management Inc., the City of Watertown issued an RFP for operations and maintenance of the City’s PLANT, and

WHEREAS the services called for in the original RFP are professional in nature and can be awarded without a new RFP or public bidding, and

WHEREAS UTC is experienced in operating and maintaining hydroelectric facilities, and

WHEREAS UTC has submitted a FEE PROPOSAL for professional services in connection with the PLANT over a two (2) year period commencing on July 1, 2013, and

WHEREAS the FEE PROPOSAL is attached and made a part of this agreement as Exhibit “A”, and

WHEREAS the Professional Services and General Conditions to be provided by UTC are attached and made a part of this agreement as Exhibit “B”, and

WHEREAS in consideration of the premises and covenants hereinafter set forth, the parties hereto have agreed to the terms and fee set forth in Exhibit “A” and Exhibit “B”

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Hydroelectric Service Agreement between the City of Watertown and the Mercer Construction Company, LLC dba Upstate Testing & Control Services, attached hereto and made part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Manager Sharon Addison is hereby authorized and directed to execute this Agreement on behalf of the City of Watertown.

**Seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso and carried with all voting yea.**

**Resolution No. 8 - Approving Public Benefit Services Agreement Between the City of Watertown and the Disabled Persons Action Organization**

**Introduced by Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith**

WHEREAS the City Council has received a request for funding to support the promotion of the Disabled Persons Action Organization Summer Concert Series, and

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown desires to appropriate \$5,000 from the FY 2013-14 Tourism Fund to support the Disabled Persons Action Organization, and

WHEREAS the Disabled Persons Action Organization will expend the funds to market and promote the City of Watertown through the public media, print, radio, television, direct contact and other promotional devices, and that this will encourage tourism in the City of Watertown, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown wishes to enter into an Agreement for Public Benefit Services between the City of Watertown and the Disabled Persons Action Organization, a copy of which is attached and made a part of this resolution;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves a Public Benefit Services Agreement between the City of Watertown, New York and the Disabled Persons Action Organization, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Manager Sharon Addison is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City Council.

**Seconded by Council Member Roxanne M. Burns**

**Rules waived by Motion of Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith, seconded by Council Member Roxanne M. Burns and carried with all voting in favor thereof.**

**At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing resolution and carried with all voting yea.**

**Resolution No. 9 - Approving Public Benefits Services Agreement Between the City of Watertown and the Jefferson County Historical Society**

**Introduced by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso**

WHEREAS the City Council has received a request for funding to support the promotion of the Jefferson County Historical Society, and

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown desires to appropriate \$12,500 from the FY 2013-14 Tourism Fund to support the Jefferson County Historical Society, and



WHEREAS the Jefferson County Historical Society will expend the funds to market and promote the City of Watertown through the public media, print, radio, television, direct contact and other promotional devices and that this will encourage tourism in the City of Watertown, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown wishes to enter into an Agreement for Public Benefit Services between the City of Watertown and the Jefferson County Historical Society, a copy of which is attached and made a part of this resolution,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves a Public Benefit Services Agreement between the City of Watertown, New York and the Jefferson County Historical Society, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Manager Sharon Addison is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City Council.

**Seconded by Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith**

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Burns recused herself and left Council Chambers because she is a board member of the Jefferson County Historical Society.

**Rules waived by Motion of Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith, seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso and carried with all voting in favor thereof except for Council Member Roxanne M. Burns abstaining.**

**At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing resolution and carried with all voting yea except for Council Member Roxanne M. Burns abstaining.**

Council Member Burns returned to Council Chambers.

**Resolution No. 10 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2013-14 Tourism Fund Budget**

**Introduced by Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith**

WHEREAS on May 20, 2013 the City Council passed a resolution adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-14, of which \$237,100 was appropriated for the Tourism Fund of which \$50,000 was appropriated for publicity expenditures, and

WHEREAS the City Council has approved agreements authorizing publicity expenditures totaling \$59,350 with the Thousand Islands International Tourism Council (\$41,850), the Jefferson County Historical Society (\$12,500) and the Disabled Persons Action Organization (\$5,000),

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York that it hereby re-adopts the Tourism Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-14 in the total amount of \$246,450 and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that the following adjustments be included in the re-adopted Tourism Fund Budget.

**Revenues**

Appropriated Fund Balance	<u>\$ 9,350</u>
Total	<u>\$ 9,350</u>

<u>Expenditures</u>	
CT 6410.0430 Publicity	<u>\$ 9,350</u>
Total	<u>\$ 9,350</u>

**Seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso**

**Rules waived by Motion of Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith, seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso and carried with all voting in favor thereof.**

**At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing resolution and carried with all voting yea.**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**The Resolution “Accepting Bid for Waste Water Treatment Plant Disinfection Improvements Project, HVAC and Plumbing, Hyde Stone.”(Introduced on 6/3/2013; tabled at that time; appears in its entirety in the 2013 Minutes Book on pages 4-5 of the 6/3/2013 minutes.)**

**Motion was made by Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith to take from the table.**

**Motion was seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso and carried with all voting yea except Council Member Roxanne M. Burns voting nay and Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr. abstaining.**

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Butler recused himself and left Council Chambers due to a business relationship with an individual from the company involved.

Mayor Graham asked for an update on the noise situation in City Hall.

Kurt Hauk, City Engineer stated that he has discussed this with the contractor as well as received recommendations from Trane through the consultant and it is suggested to wrap the pipes and hangers. If this does not help then, he stated flexible pipe connectors may need to be installed. He assured Council that he is moving forward with this.

Mayor Graham noted that if this installation was done in a home and this noise was present, then the homeowner would not ask the contractor back to do the same work in another home. He recognized that these are different projects and is pleased that there is an acknowledgment of the problem so if the people that are involved are working on a fix then he does not have a problem moving ahead with other project. He stressed that the City should not have to hire anyone to fix this because the contractor and vendor should be held responsible to make this right.

Council Member Macaluso asked if this fix would be free to the City.

Mr. Hauk noted that the question is whether Trane supplied the equipment that was in the bid specifications and whether the contractor provided the pipes as directed by the bid specifications. In

both cases, Mr. Hauk answered that they did. He reminded Council that a consultant was hired to do a geothermal study knowing that the current equipment was going to fail but at that time, there were not enough votes to proceed with geothermal. He explained that Sac Associates was then asked to specify the equipment with the most efficiency which they did. He further explained that the new chiller runs at a higher rpm than the chiller that was removed and more companies are now realizing that one of the byproducts of this is the noise. After reading the bid specifications, he indicated that he is not in a position to state that anyone is at fault and if he was then, he would be the first person to do so. He would like to see if the recommended fixes work first and then he can compare the fix to the bid specifications to see if someone is actually at fault.

Council Member Burns asked if the possibility of a noise issue was brought to his attention prior to the installation.

Mr. Hauk mentioned that the boilers are actually louder than the chiller but the issue is more with the pitch and frequency of the noise. He said that he thinks companies are seeing this more when the high efficiency units are retrofitted into older buildings but this was not brought to his attention prior to this.

Discussing the cost and the responsibility of the expense to fix this, Mr. Hauk reiterated that he needs to determine the fix for the problem first before he can determine the cost and responsibility of the fix. Upon comparing the pipes to the bid specifications, he said Hyde Stone installed piping as the bid specification required. From his point of review, he is not ready to give final a recommendation.

Mayor Graham stated that he does not want to see the same problem occur at the waste water plant.

Mr. Hauk advised that he now knows that noise is a possibility so they will be aware of this when doing this project.

**At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing resolution and carried with all voting yea except Council Member Butler abstaining.**

Council Member Butler returned to Council Chambers.

**The Ordinance “Amending the Code of the City of Watertown, §310-1, Definition of Family and §310-34, Accessory Uses in Residence Districts” (Introduced on 4/1/2013; tabled on 4/15/2013; appears in its entirety in the 2013 Minutes Book on page 5 of the of the 4/1/2013 minutes.)**

**No motion was made to take from the table.**

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **Financial Reports**

Mayor Graham mentioned that Comptroller Tom DiNapoli visited the City to deliver his 2013 Fiscal Profile giving credit to Council and staff for a situation that resulted in decreased debt and stable finances.

Council Member Smith thanked Council, Mr. Mills and the City Manager's Office, past and present, for their hard work. He stated that Council has had good discussions through the years regarding when to use fund balance, when to buy down debt or to pay as you go. When revenues increased, he noted that Council did not go on spending sprees and has been fiscally responsible.

Council Member Butler said that one of the reasons that he ran for Council was to look at the debt issues and the City's financial rating. He noted that Mr. Mills deserves a great deal of credit as well as the former City Manager and current City Manager. He pointed out that the challenge is maintaining this rating going forward because the fund balance cannot continue to be used to budget the gap. He listed the options are to raise taxes, increase revenues and reduce expenses.

#### **Fiscal Year 2013-14 Tourism Fund**

A report was available for Council to review.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Gotham Street Hill**

Council Member Burns thanked Ms. George for pointing out the issue on Gotham Street stating that this has been an ongoing problem. She looks forward to getting an update from the Police Chief.

#### **Public Square**

Council Member Burns mentioned that Public Square looks very nice but there is some trash on the island and wondered if it could be cleaned up.

#### **Traffic Flow on Holcomb Street from Clinton Street to Ten Eyck Street**

Council Member Butler pointed out that vehicles travel quite fast through here because there is not a stop sign to slow them down. He asked if the police could be proactive with an officer presence to see if the complaints are what they seem to be.

#### **Request to name the Skate Park**

Council Member Butler stated that he is looking forward to seeing what can be done with this request.

#### **Mill Street and Howard Street**

Council Member Macaluso mentioned that the speed of traffic on Mill Street near this intersection is fast as well and knows that this has been discussed in the past. She said that people had wanted a traffic light there but she is not sure how this discussion ended.

#### **Tax Sale Certificates**

Council Member Smith asked how much in back taxes are usually paid before they go to auction.

James Mills, City Comptroller confirmed that usually the amount is cut in half.

#### **Public Square – Strauss Walkway**

Council Member Smith agreed that Public Square looks very nice but he has received complaints that this walkway has been used as a place for pets to go the bathroom. He noted that there are pickup bags for pets but they are not being used.

**Thompson Park Bathrooms**

Mayor Graham told Council that he had received complaints regarding the condition of these bathrooms. He said that he knows that this is a historic building but it is not always clean, and he thinks that the City should revisit the idea of putting a new restroom near the pavilion across from the zoo.

**CDBG Entitlement Community**

Ms. Addison reported that she received notice that Watertown is eligible to become an entitlement community and stated a report will be given to Council soon.

**Consolidated Funding Application**

Ms. Addison advised that the CFA applications are due August 25<sup>th</sup> and she will be seeking Council's direction.

Mayor Graham mentioned the arena and wondered if anything is possible with that. He said that the concentration should be on the three downtown projects.

Council Member Smith pointed out that these are private projects.

Mayor Graham mentioned the tax abatement program under Section 485A and stated that he would like staff's recommendations in regard to some of these projects that are transformational in nature and need help without getting into a PILOT.

In response to Council's questions, Brian Phelps, City Assessor stated that he did not believe that 485A was specifically for downtown areas or geographic designated areas.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**At the call of the chair, meeting was duly adjourned at 7:49 p.m. by motion of Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith, seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso and carried with all voting in favor thereof.**

**Ann M. Saunders**

City Clerk